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1968/02/09

ORDER OF THE DAY (9 Feb 1968)
By the Chief of JGS/RVNAF

Dear comrades-in-arms of all levels of the ARVN, RF, PF, and RD cadres.

The VC have attacked our cities, towns, and positions on the occasion of the recent MAU THAN Lunar New Year. Both the people and the Army of Free South Vietnam felt greatly indignant at their shameless violation of the TET truce. That's why they were driven off by our brave warriors wherever they infiltrated or harrassed.

Right now, their remaining soldiers are being destroyed or besieged. They hide themselves in religous places such as pagodas and churches or in populated quarters in the Saigon and Cholon areas. When hotly pursued by our troops, they savagely set fire to private homes in order to facilitate their escape, creating great hatred among the people.

Their insane acts are like those of animals fighting before their death. The more merciless they are, the more the people hate them; the more they fight, the tighter the siege becomes. Many times they have been disarmed, arrested and brought to the authorities by the people.

The general revolt which the VC are praising as a "Great victory" is merely a hopeless effort: from the military viewpoint, their attack has been completely broken; from the political viewpoint, they have failed in maneuvering the people to launch an uprising with the purpose of taking over.

Therefore, their war potentiality has been completely dried up and they have lost the peoples' support.

Up to this time, our troops have killed 25,621 VC, captured 5,903 and also captured 7,559 weapons (1,209 crew-served and 6,350 individual). The kill ratio is 1/12 in our favor. The weapons captured ratio is 1/18 in our favor.

I recognize that the victory mentioned above was scored through your unity, comrades of all levels, without distinction of branches of combat or non-combat units.

Again I send my warmest congratulations to all comrades-in-arms of the RVNAF and the RD cadres.

In the 6 Feb 68 announcement I decided to cite before the Army some units and military branches to be commended. In addition to these, many military training centers, agencies and services have scored glorious achievements, making significant contributions to the common glorious victory of the Army and people. These elements will be acknowledged and rewarded.

Although the enemy has been forced by our Armed Forces to a deadlock, their general offensive hasn't reached the last phase yet. Before they are completely destroyed, they will fight like wildcats and may cause us much trouble.

The second phase of their general offensive may break out at any time in the near future. I have especially instructed the Corps and Tactical area Commanders to take appropriate measures.

Also, I have directed the whole Army to pay special attention to the element of winning the people in the fight against the VC to save the country. Each unit must apply flexible tactics to avoid possible damages to the property as well as lives of the people and actively help them.

Dear comrades-in-arms, confident of your braver fighting spirit, your will to win the war, I am positive that we will certainly neutralize their plan for the 2nd offensive.

Comrades-in-arms, try hard to comply with this ORDER OF THE DAY.